

## REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The applicant believes that the claims were fully supported by the specification under the first paragraph of §112. The claims have been amended to recite a seating and anti-rotation arrangement when an inner chamber is either deflated or inflated. These claims are clearly supported by the specification. The application therefore submits that claims 1-26 comply with the first paragraph of §112.

The Examiner rejected claims 14-18 and 20-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Houghton. Independent claim 20 recites the seating of a support plate and housing to prevent rotation of the plate when an inner chamber is deflated. Houghton discloses a circular-shaped plate and a circular-shaped housing. The dual circular-shapes on the plate in the housing of Houghton would inherently allow the plate to rotate. Houghton does not disclose or suggest either explicitly or inherently to prevent rotation of the plate when seated within the housing. The applicant requests that the examiner cite specific column and line numbers which disclose or suggest this recited limitation.

Additionally, independent claim 20 recites seating a piston with the housing when the inner chamber is inflated. Houghton does not disclose the seating of a piston within the housing to prevent rotation thereof when the inner chamber is inflated. For this reason, Houghton does not anticipate claims 20-23.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 8-12, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Houghton in view of DE 1,605,178. For the reasons stated above, Houghton does not disclose prevention of rotation when a support plate is seated as recited in independent claim 1, or the seating of a piston in a housing to prevent rotation when an inner chamber is

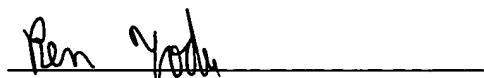
inflated as recited in independent claims 1 and 25. The DE reference does not teach or suggest seating two members when an inner chamber is either inflated or deflated. The springs 8 shown in the DE reference maintain the position of element 1 with element 6 at all times. There is no suggestion that element 1 is to be seated when an inner chamber is either deflated or inflated. DE does not teach or suggest seating of two members when a plate has moved because of the inflation or deflation of an inner chamber. Therefore, one skilled in the art would not look to this reference to modify the vibration isolator of Houghton. The combination of Houghton and the DE reference therefore does not render obvious claims 1-6, 8-12, 25 and 26.

The Examiner rejected claims 7 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Houghton in view of DE 1,605,178 in further view of Nelson. The applicant submits that these claims are allowable for being dependent upon allowable independent claims.

In view of the above it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance of claims 1-26 at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Wendy Jones 2/10/04  
Date